

CUTTING. CATALOGUE OF THE BIRDS OF VERMONT. 1884

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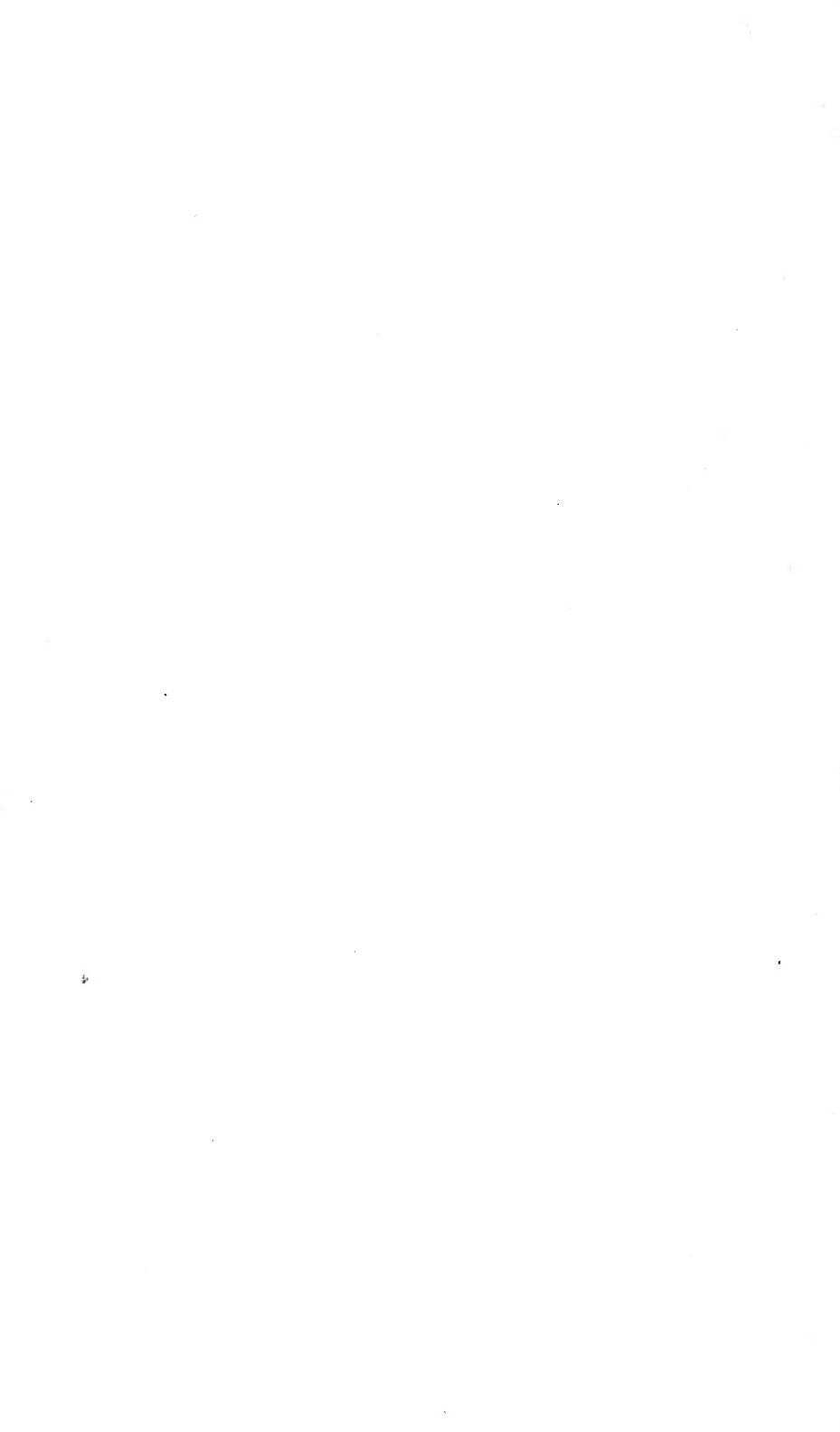
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Catalogue of the Birds of Vermont.

By Oliver A. Cutting, M. D.

1884.



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AGRICULTURAL REPORT

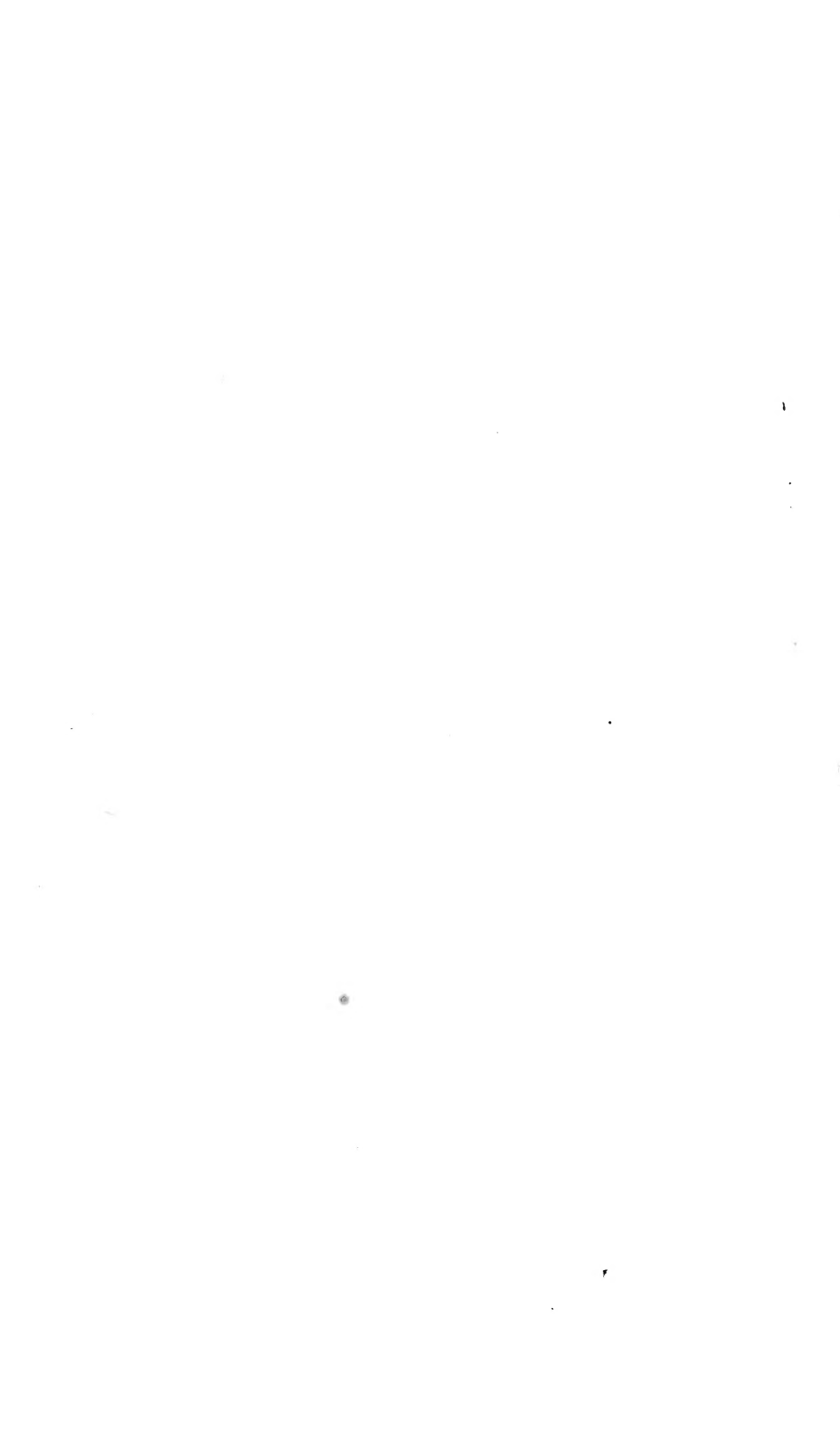
BY THE  
STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE,  
FOR  
THE YEARS 1883--84.

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HIRAM A. CUTTING, M. D., PH. D.,  
SECRETARY OF THE BOARD.



MONTPELIER:  
WATCHMAN & JOURNAL PRESS.  
1884.





# CATALOGUE OF THE BIRDS OF VERMONT.

By HIRAM A. CUTTING, M. D.

Being urged to prepare a catalogue of our birds, to aid those that desire to gain some knowledge of Vermont ornithology, I have prepared the following, with notes largely from observation, but where that has failed, I have, as in classification, adopted the opinions of W. A. Stearns and Dr. Elliott Coues. Though I do not expect I have noted every bird that may be found in the State, I trust it may be reasonably correct. I have added some notes of their nesting habits and peculiarities, that I hope may be of benefit to the young, that desire knowledge, and yet have limited means of acquiring it, as I believe such notes may lead many times to identification. The following are the families or

## DIVISIONS.

Family	Turdidæ.....	Thrushes.
"	Saxicolidæ.....	Stone Chats, &c.
"	Sylviidæ.....	Sylvians.
"	Paridæ.....	Titmice.
"	Sittidæ.....	Nuthatches.
"	Certhiidæ.....	Creepers.
"	Troglodytidæ.....	Wrens.
"	Sylvicolidæ.....	American Warblers.
"	Tanagridæ.....	Tanagers.
"	Hirundinidæ.....	Swallows.
"	Ampelidæ.....	Waxwings.
"	Vireonidæ.....	Greenlets.
"	Laniidæ.....	Shrikes.
"	Fringillidæ.....	Finches.
"	Icteridæ.....	American Starlings.
"	Corvidæ.....	Crows and Jays.
"	Tyrannidæ.....	Flycatchers.
"	Caprimulgidæ.....	Whippoorwills and Nighthawks.
"	Cypselidæ.....	Swifts.
"	Trochilidæ.....	Humming Birds.
"	Alcedinidæ.....	Kingfishers.
"	Cuculidæ.....	Cuckoos.
"	Picidæ.....	Woodpeckers.
"	Strigidæ.....	Owls.
"	Falconidæ.....	Hawks.
"	Cathartidæ.....	American Vultures.
"	Columbidæ.....	Pigeons.
"	Tetraonidæ.....	Grouse, Partridge.

## WATER BIRDS.

Family	Charadriidæ.....	Plovers.
"	Scolopacidæ.....	Snipe, &c.
"	Ardeidæ.....	Heron.
"	Gruidæ.....	Cranes.
"	Rallidæ.....	Rails and their Allies.
"	Anatidæ.....	Swans, Geese and Ducks.
"	Phalacrocoracidæ.....	Cormorants.
"	Laridæ.....	Gulls.
"	Colymbidæ.....	Loons.
"	Alcidæ.....	Auks.

## FAMILY TURDIDÆ.—THRUSHES.

ROBIN. *Turdus migratorius*, Linn.

Summer resident, everywhere abundant; a few individuals remain through the winter. A mischievous bird, destroying much small fruit.

WOOD THRUSH. *Turdus mustelinus*, Gm.

Summer resident. This is the famous vocalist whose delightful song enlivens the dawn as well as the sunset during the mating season. Not very abundant.

HERMIT THRUSH. *Turdus pallasi*, Cab.

Breeds in northern part of the state. Inhabits low, dense woods. A sweet singer, but only sings for a few days during the nesting season.

OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH. *Turdus Swainsoni*, Cab.

Quite common in northern Vermont. Scarce in southern portions, where it seldom nests. Has a pleasing song while nesting, but at other times a sharp abrupt call note only. Usual resorts like the hermit; but does not nest on the ground.

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH. *Turdus Swainsoni aliciae*, Coues.

Common, but migratory, though a few are said to breed in northern Vermont. I have never seen a nest.

TAWNY THRUSH; VEERY. *Turdus fuscescens*, Steph.

Quite common in southern part of the state, but rare in northern part. The Thrushes can be easily distinguished by the color of the upper parts alone. The Wood Thrush is tawny, turning to olive on the rump. The Hermit is olive, tawny on the rump. The Olive-back is entirely olive. The Veery is entirely tawny.

CAT BIRD. *Mimus Carolinensis*, Gray.

An abundant summer resident in every part of the state. It may be classed with the beneficial birds, but it is not a favorite, probably on account of its cat-like cry. Yet it is an incomparable mimic.

**BROWN THRUSH ; THRASHER.** *Harporhynchus rufus*, Cab.

Common in some parts of the state. Scarce in northern part. Its song is little inferior to the mocking bird, but its songs of mimicry are much more restricted.

**FAMILY SAXICOLIDÆ.—STONE CHATS, &c.****BLUE BIRD.** *Sialia sialis*, Hald.

Abundant throughout the state. A very beneficial bird. It will nest in tin fruit cans or boxes nailed on top of fence posts, if perforated so that the water can run out.

**FAMILY SYLVIIDÆ.—SYLVIANs.****RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET.** *Regulus calendula*, Licht.

Common in northern Vermont, where it breeds. Their song is a sweet warble. It is a restless bird.

**GOLDEN-CRESTED KINGLET.** *Regulus satrapa*, Licht.

Breeds in this state, and often some of them remain with us through the winter. It may be called a permanent resident.

**BLUE-GRAY GNAT CATCHER.** *Poliophtila coerulea*, Schl.

Said to be rarely seen in southern part of the state.

**FAMILY PARIDÆ.—TITMICE.****BLACK-CAPPED TITMOUSE ; CHICKADEE.** *Parus atricapillus*, L.

A common resident during the year, but perhaps more abundant in fall and winter ; at least more noticable. Sleeps with his head under his wing.

**HUDSONIAN TITMOUSE.** *Parus Hudsonicus*, F.

Breeds in northern part of state ; and in some places is common, but rare in southern part.

**FAMILY SITTIDÆ.—NUTHATCHES.****WHITE-BELLIED NUTHATCH.** *Sitta Carolinensis*, Gm.

A common bird, residing the year round. It feeds on insects and is a desirable bird. It has a peculiar song and a low guttural tone. If once heard it is always remembered.

**RED-BELLIED NUTHATCH.** *Sitta Canadensis*, L.

Common in north part of state, and often seen in all portions, but perhaps does not nest often, only among the northern hills. Its habits and food much the same as the other.

## FAMILY CETHIIDÆ.—CREEPERS.

BROWN CREEPER. *Certhia familiaris*, L.

Common in most towns in the state, nesting here. It is a shy bird, but not alone found in the woods, as it is often observed in our orchards, parks, and even streets. Is one of the most servicable of birds as it lives largely upon noxious insects that are found in the crevices of the bark of trees.

## FAMILY TROGLODYTIDÆ.—WRENS.

GREAT CAROLINA WREN. *Thryothorus Ludovicianus*, Bp.

A rare visitant, said to have been seen at Bennington now and then. Has not been known to breed here.

HOUSE WREN. *Troglodytes domesticus*, Coues.

A summer resident, breeding in southern part of the state. Is social in its habits, and hence if one pair is found in a neighborhood more are likely to be, and the same birds doubtless return year after year to the same breeding grounds.

WINTER WREN. *Anorthura troglodytes hiemalis*, Coues.

One of the smallest birds with a pleasing song, yet of a retiring nature. Breeds in the state, and yet is not often seen as it is always on the wrong sides of a branch.

## FAMILY SYLVICOLIDÆ.—AMERICAN WARBLERS.

BLACK AND WHITE CREEPING WARBLER. *Mniotilta varia*, V.

A beautiful and interesting summer visitor; nest usually on the ground. Is insectivorous, and hence welcome.

BLUE YELLOW-BACKED WARBLER. *Purula Americana*, Bp.

A common summer resident coming among us in January. Nests in trees, building near end of branches a beautiful hanging nest made mostly of moss.

NASHVILLE WARBLER. *Helminthophaga ruficapilla*, Bd.

Breeds here in great numbers. Nests on the ground. Builds of leaves and bark of white birch and other trees. Sometimes uses pine needles.

SUMMER WARBLER; SUMMER YELLOW BIRD; YELLOW WARBLER. *Dendroeca aestiva*, Bd.

This beautiful bird is abundant, nesting in orchards and gardens, and is one of the most valuable as one of the most plentiful of man's friends.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER. *Dendroeca virens*, Bd.

More abundant in northern part of state, especially in pine woods of Essex County.

**BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER.** *Dendroeca coerulescens*, Bd.

Abundant in northern portions of state, but not as familiar in nesting. A beautiful and desirable bird.

**YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER; MYRTLE BIRD.** *Dendroeca coronata*, Gray.

Abundant among the hills in spruce woods. Builds nests in low spruce trees, from three to five feet from the ground. Builds of twigs and lines with feathers.

**BLACKBURN'S WARBLER.** *Dendroeca Blackburnæ*, Bd.

Quite common. Builds in high and mossy evergreen trees. Lines nest with an abundant supply of feathers.

**BLACK-POLL WARBLER.** *Dendroeca striata*, Bd.

Is chiefly a migrant, seen spring and fall, yet a few nest on the northern border of the state. Nest built of twigs and lined with fine grass.

**BAY-BREASTED WARBLER.** *Dendroeca castanea*, Bd.

Resident of northern Vermont; puts nest high, and not easily found. One I have seen was built twenty-five feet from the ground on horizontal branch; coarse material outside, but lined with fine moss in a very artistic manner.

**CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER.** *Dendroeca Pennsylvanica*, Bd.

A common summer resident. Nest coarser than the yellow bird; built of grass lined with fine straws and hair; built on shrubs from four to six feet from the ground. Eggs purple.

**BLACK-AND-YELLOW WARBLER.** *Dendroeca maculosa*, Bd.

One of the most elegant of the family. Builds a beautiful nest interlaced with twigs and grasses, and I think always lined with black horse hair; why other colors are not desirable seems a peculiarity.

**CAPE MAY WARBLER.** *Dendroeca tigrina*, Bd.

Rare. Builds in low thick spruces, about five feet from ground. Nest similar to above, only not particular about hairs.

**YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER.** *Dendroeca dominica*, Bd.

Very rare. Shot one in Lunenburg in 1878. Never saw its nest in the state.

**YELLOW RED-POLL WARBLER.** *Dendroeca palmarum*, Bd.

This bird comes to us in early spring; nests on the ground, and haunts plowed fields and roadsides often in company with sparrows. Breeds, I think, only in northern part of the state.

**PINE-CREEPING WARBLER.** *Dendroeca pinus*, Bd.

This is a plain bird, larger than other warblers, and comes to us early, sometimes in March. They are found in the spruce and pine woods.

GOLDEN-CROWNED ACCENTOR; OVEN BIRD. *Siurus auricapillus*, Sw.

This peculiar nest builder that gives it its name from roofing over its nest is not common, yet is often seen in southern part of the state.

NEW YORK ACCENTOR; WATER THRUSH. *Siurus naevius*, Coues.

This bird is found in all suitable places. Is a summer resident of our swamps, especially of the sphagnous variety. Its nest is on the ground and built of mosses, lined with slender rootlets.

MARYLAND YELLOW-THROAT. *Geothlypis trichas*, Cab.

Any bush in Vermont may contain one of those jubilant little birds, with the nest near at hand at foot of bush or tussock, and sometimes partly roofed over, made with dry leaves, grasses, etc., lined with fine fibers or hair.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT. *Icteria virens*, Bd.

Very rare. Nest in bush some three feet from ground, built of leaves, dried grass, bark, etc., lined with fine fibers of same material.

GREEN BLACK-CAPPED WARBLER. *Wilsonia pusilla*, Bp.

In northern Vermont as a variety, in winter.

CANADIAN FLYCATCHING WARBLER. *Wilsonia Canadensis*, Coues.

A common summer resident. Builds on ground under tuft of grass; builds of the needles of spruce or pine.

REDSTART. *Setophaga ruticilla*, Sw.

A summer resident. One of the most active of the flycatchers. Builds nest in fork of a sapling, from five to twenty feet from ground.

#### FAMILY TANAGRIDÆ.—TANAGERS.

SCARLET TANAGER. *Pyranga rubra*, V.

One of our most brilliant summer residents. Builds its nest in groves, and even in our orchards, of strips of bark, rootlets, twigs and leaves, nicely lined with materials of some kind.

#### FAMILY HIRUNDINIDÆ.—SWALLOWS.

AMERICAN BARN SWALLOW. *Hirundo erythrogastra horreorum*, Coues.

Too common and well-known to need comment.

WHITE-BELLIED SWALLOW. *Iridoprocne bicolor*, Coues.

Often accept boxes put up for them, and yet build in stumps and natural holes in trees, etc. Do not use mud, but build of dried grass lined with feathers.

CLIFF, OR EAVE SWALLOW. *Petrochelidon lunifrons*, Cab.

Build under eaves of buildings when there is a little ledge to hold nests, otherwise on hard banks, or perpendicular face of rock; common.

BANK SWALLOW. *Cotile riparia*. Boie.

Make excavations in banks for nests, and congregates in hundreds on favorable location.

PURPLE MARTIN. *Progne subis*, Bd.

A common bird, nesting usually only where man gives them the accommodation of a little house to build in. Will not allow hawks or crows to come within one-fourth mile of their abodes; are beligerent, and chatter with great vehemence in early morning.

#### FAMILY AMPELIDÆ.—WAXWINGS.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING. *Ampelis garrulus*.

Occasionally seen in southern Vermont.

CAROLINA WAXWING, CEDAR BIRD, CHERRY BIRD. *Ampelis cedrorum*, Gray.

One of our most beautiful and abundant birds. Build their nests in cedars and sometimes in our orchards. Are very destructive to cherries. They build their nests of the most convenient materials at hand, using an abundance of it.

#### FAMILY VIREONIDÆ.—GREENLETS.

RED-EYED GREENLET. *Vireo olivaceus*, V.

A sylvan bird of the forest, yet are seen about orchards. Build cup-like pensile nests, and lay white, fine specked eggs.

BROTHERLY LOVE GREENLET. *Vireo Philadelphicus*, Cass.

Very rare in this state.

WARBLING GREENLET. *Vireo gilvus*, Bp.

Common bird about shade trees, especially elms. Nests high up, but pensile, and does not specially differ from other vireos.

YELLOW-THROATED GREENLET. *Vireo flavifrons*, V.

Not common. Its nest is peculiar, being adorned with stucco work of lichens, like the humming bird's.

BLUE-HEADED GREENLET. *Vireo solitarius*, V.

Not common. Nest like the yellow-throated Greenlet.

WHITE-EYED GREENLET. *Vireo noveboracensis*, Bp.

Very rare. Have never seen its nest.

#### FAMILY LANIIDÆ.—SHRIKES.

GREAT NORTHERN SHRIKE, OR BUTCHER BIRD. *Lanius borealis*, V.

This bold brigand is only too common, and yet fitful in his appearance, only coming now and then in any special locality. Has been known to breed in northern Vermont, but not commonly.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE. *Lanius ludovicianus*.

Very rare, but has been killed in the State.

WHITE-RUMPED LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE. *Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides*, Coues.

A rare visitant.

#### FAMILY FRINGILLIDÆ.—FINCHES.

PINE GROSBEAK. *Pinicola enucleator*, Cab.

A resident of northern Vermont, and found now and then almost anywhere. Are liable to drift about in flocks from place to place, yet their home is in the evergreen forest.

PURPLE GROSBEAK. *Carpodacus purpureus*, Gray.

This bird may be found at all seasons, but more abundant in summer, but is not often seen.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL. *Loxia leucoptera*, Gm.

Quite abundant, especially in winter. It breeds while snow is on the ground. More abundant in pine woods.

AMERICAN RED CROSSBILL. *Loxia curvirostra Americana*, Coues.

Nests in Vermont and are much more abundant than the white winged, though they are often seen together.

RED-POLL LINNET. *Ægiothus linaria*, Cab.

A migrant and winter visitor.

AMERICAN MEALY RED-POLL. *Ægiothus exilipes*, Coues.

Seen occasionally in winter.

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH ; THISTLE-BIRD ; YELLOW-BIRD. *Astragalinus tristis*, Cab.

One of our familiar birds, gay colors, sweet songs, agreeable presence and engaging habits. Regarded with favor everywhere. Nests in trees at all heights, from six feet, upwards. Nest resembles the summer warbler.

SNOW BUNTING ; SNOWFLAKE. *Plectrophanes nivalis*, Mey.

Coming with the snow storms, they do not leave us until April, and are seen in flocks around our villages and farm homes.

LAPLAND LONGSPUR. *Centrophanes lapponicus*, Kaup.

Habits, and sojourn with us like the Snow Bunting.

SAVANNA SPARROW. *Passerculus savana*, Bp.

One of the common birds of Vermont, sometimes being absent but a short time. Is generally called the ground bird, as it is seldom off the ground and nests there.

BAY-WINGED BUNTING ; GRASS FINCH. *Poocetes gramineus*, Bd.

This is another ground nester, but is a fine songster along our roadsides.



YELLOW-WINGED SPARROW. *Coturniculus passerinus*, Bp.

Has been seen in southern part of state, but very rarely.

HENSLOW'S YELLOW-WINGED SPARROW. *Coturniculus Henslowi*, Bp.

A rare summer resident.

SWAMP SPARROW. *Melospiza palustris*, Bd.

Abundant in thick shrubbery. Nests on the ground, on or by a grass tussock, or in a small, low bush.

SONG SPARROW. *Melospiza fasciata*, Sc.

An abundant summer resident, and the happiest and most cheerful of the sparrow family. Nests in a bush close to the ground, the nest being ordinary; as we cannot expect one bird to possess all the graces.

BLACK SNOW-BIRD. *Junco hiemalis*, Scl.

When boys see this bird about their homes in winter, when there is so little bird life around, his love for natural history increases, and while he feeds some, he is quite likely to try his capabilities of preserving one of those specimens, and so this snow bird is on the mantles of many a home.

TREE SPARROW. *Spizella Monticola*, Bd.

A winter visitant, and yet a near relative of the familiar "Chippy."

CHIPPING SPARROW, OR HAIR BIRD. *Spizella domestica*, Coues.

While spring may hesitate, you will be reminded of summer, by hearing from some bush the sound as though bits of flint were being chipped, by striking against each other. This is Chippy, that will build his neat horse hair nest in some convenient bush near your very door.

FIELD SPARROW. *Spizella agrestis*, Coues.

This is a common bird in field and pasture, and puts her nest on the ground at the root of a small bush if convenient. Is a familiar bird, with clear notes that make a sweet morning or evening song.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW; PEABODY BIRD. *Zonotrichia albicollis*, Bp.

A large, handsome sparrow, and a fine song; a few remain all the year with us, especially in southern part of state; nest on ground.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW. *Zonotrichia leucophrys*, Sw.

Irregular in appearance; not common. Size not inferior to the last. Nests about three and one-half feet from ground, with nest as large as a robin. Built of grasses; lined smoothly inside.

FOX SPARROW. *Passerella iliaca*, Sw.

A migratory bird seen spring and fall.

INDIGO BIRD. *Passerina cyanea*, Gr.

An attractive bird of vivacious manners, but not very brilliant song. Builds nest in bushes within a foot or two of the ground; rather slovenly, and of the most convenient material.

BLUE GROSEBEAK. *Guiraca cærulea*, Sw.

A rare bird, yet occasionally seen here.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSEBEAK. *Zamelodia ludoviciana*, Coues.

This elegant bird famous for beauty of song and plumage, is often among us, and yet not every year in equal numbers. A deep woods' bird and yet nests on the outskirts, in saplings, but high from the ground. A large nest of convenient material.

TOWHEE BUNTING. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*, V.

By some called "Marsh robin." Is often seen, but not plenty.

THE HOUSE SPARROW. *Passer domesticus*.

Brought from England, and domesticated. Feeds upon insects and seeds and grain. Many dislike him, but there are things in his favor. It is so with most birds.

FAMILY ICTERIDÆ.—AMERICAN STARLINGS.

BOBOLINK; REED-BIRD; RICE-BIRD. *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*, Sw.

Is too prominent and well known to need a word. Is migratory, and change their plumage and song as well as name.

COW-BIRD. *Molothrus ater*, Gray.

A common bird, but a regular cheat, as the female lays her eggs in other bird's nests, thus causing them to be fostered by stepmothers that hatch and raise them.

RED-WINGED BLACK-BIRD. *Agelaius phæniceus*, V.

This bird is seen and known everywhere. Nest in reeds, bushes, or common grass near the ground. Not artistic; built of grasses and convenient material, with a few hairs for lining.

FIELD LARK. *Sturnella magna*, Sw.

Seen here, but not very common.

ORCHARD ORIOLE. *Icterus spurius*, Bp.

Increasing from year to year. Its nest is a marvel of skill, being a purse woven close and compact, sometimes of grass, sometimes of strings. It is perfectly pendant from a small branch.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE. *Icterus galbula*, Coues.

This is one of Vermont's beauties of bird life, called also the "Golden Robin," "The Fire Bird" or "Hang Nest." Nest similar to the orchard Oriole.

RUSTY GRACKLE. *Scolecophagus ferrugineus*, Sw.

Nests in Vermont, but not abundantly. Does not take pains to hide its nest, but builds on bushes, in out of way places, or in alders that overhang a brook. Builds of grasses and twigs mixed with mud.

PURPLE GRACKLE ; CROW BLACKBIRD. *Quiscalus purpureus*, Licht.

A common bird in some parts of the state, yet hardly seen in others. Nests in a tree at almost any height. Nest loose and bulky.

### FAMILY CORVIDÆ.—CROWS AND JAYS.

RAVEN. *Corvus corax*.

Very rare, but one has been killed to my knowledge, in the state.

COMMON CROW. *Corvus frugivorus*, Bartr.

The farmers' friend, eating many noxious insects, caterpillars, slugs, grubs, grasshoppers, &c. Yet he is so black, and has such an unstately walk, and no music in his voice, so he is generally hated.

BLUE JAY. *Cyanocitta cristata*, Strickl.

This bird is a vile robber, and almost the only bird that has no good thing about him.

CANADA JAY. *Perisoreus Canadensis*, Bp.

Often seen in northern Vermont, and breeds there now and then. "Whisky Jack" has few friends though not as mean as the Blue Jay.

### FAMILY TYRANNIDÆ.—FLYCATCHERS.

KING BIRD ; BEE-MARTIN. *Tyrannus Carolinensis*, Bd.

This tyrant is quite common and well known, as no birds make more noise than they. This whole tribe are exclusively insectivorous in food, and so must go and come with the insects on which they prey. Build their nests with substances most convenient and do not screen them from sight any more than the Robin.

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER. *Myiarchus crinitus*, Cab.

Rather rare. Builds nests in the hollows of trees, post holes, and artificial retreats put up by man. Its nest may be known when found, for as far as I know, they always contain one or more of the cast off skins of snakes.

PEWEE ; PEWIT ; PHOEBE-BIRD. *Sayornis fusca*, Bd.

A little tyrant, smart, but impatient, coming early yet never abundant in this state. Nests on crags, in roots of fallen trees or in banks. Nest is built like that of the barn swallow.

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER. *Contopus borealis*, Bd.

Not very common, but is a conspicuous bird by always perching at the end of a dead limb or some exposed situation. Nests high, shallow and not very nicely built, of convenient material.

WOOD PEWEE. *Contopus virens*, Cab.

A forest bird, quite plenty, but not much noticed.

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER. *Empidonax acadicus*, Bd.

Rarely seen in Vermont.

TRAILL'S FLYCATCHER. *Empidonax trailli*, Bd.

Rather rare in Vermont, yet has been taken at Bennington and Bethel, and in Connecticut River Valley.

LEAST FLYCATCHER. *Empidonax minimus*, Bd.

Most abundant of all flycatchers. Nests ten or twelve feet from ground; sometimes more or less. Nest placed in upright crotch, and built of fibrous inner bark and lined with vegetable down—a very pretty structure.

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER. *Empidonax flaviventris*, Bd.

Breeds rarely in northern Vermont; usually further north. Rare.

## FAMILY CAPRIMULGIDÆ.—WHIPPOORWILLS AND NIGHTHAWKS.

WHIPPOORWILL. *Antrostomus vociferus*, Bp.

Common summer resident. Nocturnal habits, and much oftener heard than seen. Nests usually on the ground in just a little hollow made by pushing the leaves, &c., out of the way. Lays but two eggs.

NIGHT-HAWK OR BULL-BAT. *Chordeiles popetue*, Bd.

Very common. Feeds in dusk of evening, and is peculiar in its movements. Its habits well known.

## FAMILY CYPSELIDÆ.—SWIFTS.

CHIMNEY SWIFT. *Chætura pelagica*, Steph.

A common bird, often called swallows. Used to build in hollow trees, but, since the country was settled, in chimneys. They not only nest there, but often live there in hundreds.

## FAMILY TROCHILIDÆ.—HUMMING BIRDS.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMING BIRD. *Trochilus colubris*.

This beautiful little brilliant bird builds its nest with vegetable down, and sticks it all over outside with lichens off the tree it builds on, so it looks like an old knot. The imitation is so perfect that it is not often found. Those I have seen were in apple trees.

## FAMILY ALCEDINIDÆ.—KINGFISHERS.

BELTED KINGFISHER. *Ceryle alcyon*, Boie.

Lives on fish and vomits the bones in a hole in a bank, and calls it its nest. It is putrid and full of vermin, and yet it answers their purpose, and in such a place their young are reared.

## FAMILY CUCULIDÆ.—CUCKOOS.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO. *Coccygus Erythrophthalmus*, Bd.

Most numerous of the two species that inhabit the state, yet never very abundant. They sometimes drop their eggs in other birds' nests, yet often rear their own brood. They lay eggs only at intervals of several days, so the first hatched birds help hatch others.

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO. *Coccygus Americanus*, Bd.

Traits and habits as last described.

## FAMILY PICIDÆ.—WOODPECKERS.

PILEATED WOODPECKER. *Hylotomus pileatus*, Bd.

Wild, solitary bird, yet sought by the amateur naturalist, as his head is so red and his body so large that he is always conspicuous.

HAIRY WOODPECKER. *Picus villosus*.

Found everywhere but not abundant in the State. Nest in very secluded places.

DOWNY WOODPECKER. *Picus pubescens*.

The ring of holes drilled around an apple or a pear tree, when in perfect health, is the work of this little mischief. Some say he drills these for sap, and others, for the insects that collect about them, but it looks like pure mischief. They, however, chisel a hole for their nest in some dead tree with great labor.

BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODPECKER. *Picoides arcticus*, Gr.

Almost the only three-toed bird. A permanent resident.

YELLOW-BELLIED WOODPECKER. *Sphyrapicus varius*, Bd.

This is a very different kind of woodpecker, as they take much of their food on the wing instead of out of holes in trees. Its tongue is not the spear of other varieties, and not capable of such extension. Chiefly observed in spring and fall.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*, Sw.

The "red, white and blue" of this bird is too well known to need comment.

GOLDEN-WINGED WOODPECKER; FLICKER. *Colaptes auratus*, Sw.

The most common of all the tribes, and has a half dozen, at least, local names not here given.

## FAMILY STRIGIDÆ.—OWLS.

BARN OWL. *Aluco flammeus pratincola*, Coues.

Found in northern Vermont and thought to breed there, yet that part is uncertain. Eggs were brought me larger than doves' and speckled, said to be the eggs of the owl, and the owls were brought also. The owls are right, and the eggs not yet identified.

GREAT-HORNED OWL. *Bubo Virginianus*, Bp.

Common. Nest I have never found.

SCREECH OWL ; RED OR MOTTLED OWL. *Scops asio*, Bp.

Very common. Nests in hollow trees, and builds of sticks, leaves and feathers. Is a great mouser, one owl being as good as six cats.

LONG-EARED OWL. *Asio Wilsonianus*, Coues.

Often met with. Nests in thick evergreen trees, often appropriating a crow's nest.

SHORT-EARED OWL. *Asio accipitrinus*, Newt.

Common. Frequents marshy places. Is a persistent hunter of shrews and field mice. Nests on the ground, and builds but little, of sticks and coarse material.

GREAT GRAY OWL. *Strix cinerea*, Gm.

Frequently met with in northern Vermont. Usually in winter. Does not nest here.

BARRED OWL. *Strix nebulosa*, Forst.

A resident often seen, but seems to decrease with cutting off the forest. Nests in hollow trees. Lives on small quadrupeds.

SNOWY OWL. *Nyctea scandiaca*, Newt.

A winter visitor ; sometimes in great numbers.

HAWK OWL ; DAY OWL. *Surnia funerea*, Rich and Sw.

Is a permanent resident in northern part of state. Nests in trees ; builds of sticks lined with hay or grass, yet sometimes with moss also.

RICHARDSON'S OWL. *Nyctala tengmalmi*, *Richardsoni*, Ridg.

Occasional, but not common ; winter visitor. Do not think it nests with us.

SAW-WHET OR ACADIAN OWL. *Nyctala Acadica*, Bp.

Quite common, seeming to like the vicinity of buildings. Have trees about my house of different varieties, and it often comes among them in winter or spring, and sometimes in early summer. Nests in hollow trees. Owls are all beneficial to man, as they destroy thousands of pests.

## FAMILY FALCONIDÆ.—HAWKS.

MARSH HAWK OR HARRIER. *Circus cyaneus*. *Hudsonius*, Schl.

Common in spring and summer, and may be seen flying low, search out mice, frogs and such small game in wet places. Male and female very unlike, and sometimes called different species.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE. *Elanoides forficatus*, Coues.

Very rarely found.

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK. *Accipiter fuscus*, Bp.

A common hawk, and a spirited and dashing bird. It nests in trees and on rocks, and a late breeder.

COOPER'S HAWK ; CHICKEN HAWK. *Accipiter cooperi*, Bp.

One of the most abundant of the family. Nests in trees.

AMERICAN GOSHAWK. *Astur atricapillus*, Bp.

A winter visitant, and a few remain through the summer and nest here.

GYRFALCONS OR JERFALCONS. *Falco gyrfalco*.

Occasional, but rare.

DUCK HAWK ; PEREGRINE FALCON. *Falco peregrinus*, Tunstall.

A resident. In Brandon, it is said, a pair have bred regularly for twenty-five years. They seem attached to their location, as a home.

PIGEON FALCON, PIGEON HAWK. *Falco Columbarius*.

A summer resident, and very common.

RUSTY-CROWNED FALCON ; SPARROW HAWK. *Falco sparverius*.

Resident, and a pest to small birds. Easily domesticated, and becomes quite tame. Often seen in cages.

RED-TAILED BUZZARD ; HEN HAWK. *Buteo borealis*, Gm.

Permanent resident. Nests in high trees ; builds of twigs, grass, moss, etc.

RED-SHOULDERED BUZZARD ; WINTER HAWK. *Buteo lineatus*, Jard.

The most abundant of the large hawks, and a resident ; nest is smaller and placed out on a branch instead of near the tree as the Red-tailed Buzzard does.

BROAD-WINGED BUZZARD. *Buteo Pennsylvanicus*, Bp.

Not common, but seen now and then. Breeds in the state.

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD. *Archibuteo lagopus sanct-johannis*, Ridg.

Found in marshes. Feeds on mice and reptiles. Nests in trees or on cliffs. Rare.

OSPREY ; FISH HAWK. *Pandion halietus*, Sav.

Common about ponds and streams in autumn. Never saw a nest in the state.

GOLDEN EAGLE. *Aquila chrysaetus*, Cuv.

Abundant about the woods and mountains; Nest very large, and placed on crags or trees near rocks, with partially dead, thick tops. Is said to lay but two eggs, but have seen three, and had, apparently, authentic accounts of four. Is decreasing as timber is cut off.

BALD EAGLE. *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, Sav.

Often seen, and yet not as plentiful as formerly. Commonly nests in a large tree, but not always; uses sticks two inches in diameter to begin with, and carries up a large amount of material.

## FAMILY CATHARTIDÆ.—AMERICAN VULTURE.

TURKEY BUZZARD. *Cathartes aura*, Ill.

Not often seen in Vermont, yet have known one capture, so it comes here.

CARRION CROW. *Catharista atrata*, Less.

Of rare occurrence. Never known of its being taken here.

## FAMILY COLUMBIDÆ.—PIGEONS.

PASSENGER PIGEON; WILD PIGEON. *Ectopistes migratorius*, Sw.

A remnant of the countless numbers of past time only remain.

## FAMILY TETRAONIDÆ.—GROUSE.

CANADA GROUSE, OR SPRUCE PARTRIDGE. *Canace Canadensis*, Reich.

Common in the big woods of Essex County, but they decrease as the timber is cut away. Nests on the ground. Is not much afraid of man.

RUFFLED GROUSE, OR PARTRIDGE. *Bonasa umbella*, Steph.

Common, and yet not as numerous as formerly.

THE AMERICAN PARTRIDGE, QUAIL, OR BOB-WHITE. *Ortyx Virginiana*, Bp.

Occasional only.

## WATER BIRDS.

## FAMILY CHARADRIDÆ.—PLOVERS.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER. *Squatarola helvetica*, Cuv.

A migrant, sometimes seen in flocks.

GOLDEN PLOVER. *Charadrius dominicus*, Mull.

Sometimes, but rarely seen. Does not breed here.



KILDEER PLOVER. *Aegialites vociferus*, Bp.

Not common, but said to nest in the state.

SEMPALMATED RING PLOVER, RING-NECK. *Aegialites semipalmatus*, Cab.

Have seen it about Groton pond in considerable numbers, but nowhere else, yet it is doubtless found in many places in the state.

#### FAMILY SCOLOPACIDÆ.—SNIPE, ETC.

THE WOODCOCK. *Philohela minor*, Gr.

Occasionally seen; not common.

THE AMERICAN SNIPE; WILSON'S SNIPE. *Gallinago Wilsoni*, Bp.

Said to be seen here, but am not certain about it.

RED-BREASTED SNIPE; GRAY SNIPE; BROWN-BACK; DOWITCHER. *Macrorhamphus griseus*, Leach.

Said to come to Memphremagog Lake in flocks, but have not seen them, and am not sure of its identity.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER; GRASS SNIPE; JACK SNIPE. *Actodromas maculata*, Coues.

Migrant, commonly seen in autumn.

PURPLE SANDPIPER. *Arquatella maritima*, Bd.

Occasionally breeds in Vermont, as I had the old bird with young brought me a few years since.

GREATER TATTLER; GREATER YELLOW LEGS; STONE SNIPE. *Totanus melanoleucus*, Vieill.

Rarely seen in small flocks in autumn.

SOLITARY TATTLER; AMERICAN GREEN SANDPIPER. *Rhyacophilus solitarius*, Bp.

Rarely seen; a migrant generally, but few are said to nest here.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER. *Tringoides macularius*, Gray.

Nests in the state.

BARTRAMIAN SANDPIPER; UPLAND PLOVER. *Bartramia longicauda*, Coues.

Sometimes abundant in fall.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER. *Tryngites rufescens*, Cab.

Rare, yet a few have been killed and sent me during the last ten years.

#### FAMILY ARDEIDÆ.—HERONS.

GREAT BLUE HERON. *Ardea herodias*, Linn.

A common summer resident in Vermont. Nest in trees, in swamps, coarsely built.

GREEN HERON. *Butorides virescens*, Cab.

One was shot in Lunenburg, on the Connecticut River, and is now in cabinet. Have never known of others.

NIGHT HERON ; QUA-BIRD ; SQUAWK. *Nyctiardea grisea nævia*, Allen.

Common summer resident. Nests in trees, and all in a township seem to desire to nest in the same tree.

AMERICAN BITTERN. *Botaurus mugitans*, Coues.

Rarely seen in Vermont.

LEAST BITTERN. *Ardetta exilis*, Gr.

Scarce.

#### FAMILY GRUIDÆ.—CRANES.

GREAT WHITE, OR WHOOPING CRANE. *Grus Americana* Temm.

Scarce, more so than formerly.

BROWN, OR SAND-HILL CRANE. *Grus pratensis*, Bartr.

One captured two years ago on the Connecticut at Lunenburg. Scarce.

#### FAMILY RALLIDÆ.—RAILS AND THEIR ALLIES.

VIRGINIA RAIL. *Rallus Virginianus*, Linn.

Very rare.

CAROLINA RAIL, OR SORA. *Porzana Carolina*, Vieill.

More common, but not abundant.

YELLOW RAIL, OR CRAKE. *Porzana noveboracensis*, Cass.

Specimen shot at Newport. Never saw any other here, yet said to be seen now and then.

FLORIDA GALLINULE. *Gallinula galeata*, Bp.

One specimen shot on Lake Champlain. Said to be often seen there.

#### FAMILY ANATIDÆ.—SWANS, GEESE and DUCKS.

COMMON WILD GOOSE ; CANADA GOOSE. *Bernicla Canadensis*, Boie.

Seen spring and fall. Seldom breed here.

DUSKY DUCK. *Anas obscura*, Gm.

Breed with us often, but mostly further north.

GREEN-WINGED TEEL. *Querquedula Carolinensis*, Steph.

Migratory. Seen in transit.

SUMMER, OR WOOD DUCK. *Aix sponsa*, Boie.

Quite common. Nest in holes in trees and rock cavities. A beautiful bird.

MERGANSER ; GOOSANDER ; FISH DUCK. *Mergus merganser*.

Not common, but breed at Groton Pond, and said to at Memphremagog.

HOODED MERGANSER. *Mergus cucullatus*.

Rare. Builds nest in old trees or stumps.

#### FAMILY PHALACROCORACIDÆ.—CORMORANTS.

COMMON CORMORANT. *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Leach.

One shot four years ago on the Connecticut, at Lunenburg. Supposed he was driven inland in a storm, as it was just after a violent easterly gale.

#### FAMILY LARIDÆ.—JAEGER ; GULLS ; TERNS AND SKIMMERS.

GLAUCOUS GULL, OR BURGOMASTER. *Larus glaucus*, Brunn.

One shot on Maidstone meadows by Dr. Dodge ; the only one, as far as I know, ever seen in Vermont.

BONAPARTE'S GULL. *Chroicocephalus Philadelphia*, Lawr.

Specimen in cabinet shot at Newport. Not common.

#### FAMILY COLYMBIDÆ.—LOONS.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER, OR LOON. *Colymbus torquatus*, Brunn.

Common ; breeds here ; nests on ground.

#### FAMILY ALCIDÆ.—AUKS.

SEA DOVE ; LITTLE AUK, OR DOVEKIE. *Alle nigricans*, Link.

In 1874, after a severe easterly storm of snow, many were found in New Hampshire and Vermont, and killed ; rarely one is so killed now. Suppose they were blown inland in the storm, having lost their way.

## FORESTRY.

A Lecture by Dr. HIRAM A. CUTTING.

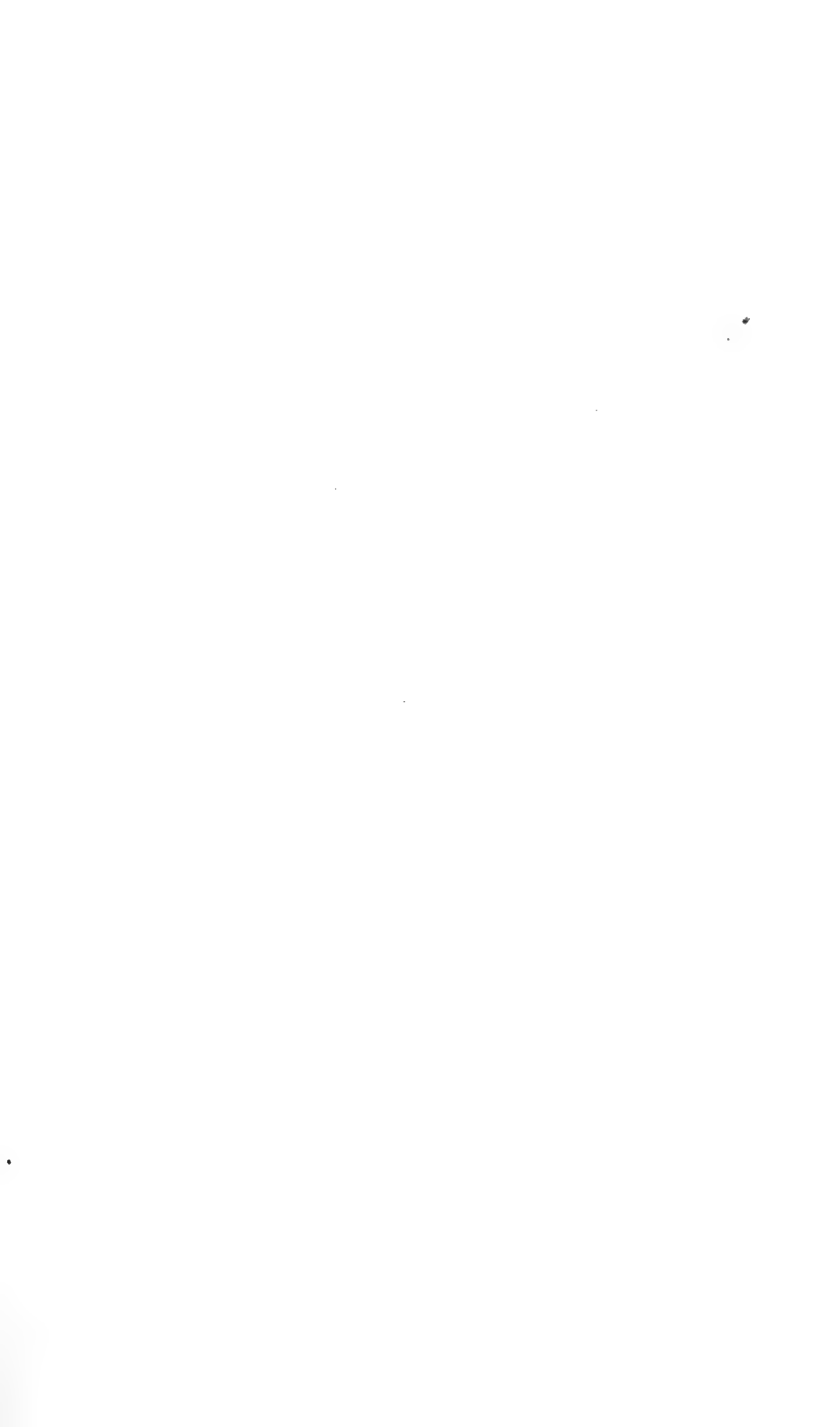
What a noble gift to man are the forests ! What a debt of gratitude and admiration we owe for their utility and their beauty ! How pleasantly the shadows of the wood fall upon our heads when we turn from the glitter and turmoil of the world of man ! The winds of heaven seem to linger amid their balmy branches, and the sunshine falls like a blessing upon the green leaves ; the wild breath of the forest, fragrant with its hundred perfumes, fans the brow with grateful freshness, and its beautiful mellow woodlight, full of calm and peaceful influences, gives a repose to the spirit of man not found elsewhere. Let us cherish the forest ; first, because it is beautiful, and beauty everywhere gives happiness ; and, second, because it is of utility beyond even our conception or belief.

Allow me, also, to appeal for aid to the cultivated and refined sensibilities of the ladies. In the forest's sheltering shade and the rich mold of their annually decaying leaves, the greater number of our loveliest plants are found ; and when the axe comes, that cruel weapon that wars upon nature's freshness, and the stately pine, the spruce, the noble oak, the elm, the beech and the maple fall with a loud crash in the peaceful solitude, even the very birds can understand that a floral death-knell sounds through the melodious wilderness.

A number of our choicest plants are threatened with extinction ; for as the woods are cleared away, these tender offsprings, the pretty flowers, which we so dearly cherish, will perish utterly. It is, therefore, well to prevent, as far as possible, the destruction of our native forests, as well as to plant forest trees, if for no other purpose than the preservation of the little helpless, blooming beauties that adorn our woodland shades.

But this preservation means much more. Yes, even to Vermont, they are a necessity. Without our forests our land would be desolate. Our springs and wells would all fail in the summer, our mill streams would be nearly or quite dry, and our rivers changed to rivulets. The soil, being exposed, would sooner dry up after rain, and if it be clay, it would become hard so that when the rain came it would run off at once, instead of sinking into the earth. The water, no longer obstructed by roots and rubbish, would not trickle slowly as now into the water courses, but upon steep mountain slopes and hillsides would bare the rocks of earth, which would come down the ravines with the water, making them immense chasms, and the rocks and rubbish carried down by those torrents would cover the fertile valleys below with stones and gravel, and spreading over the plains in destructive inundations, would desolate the country far and wide.

You may say this is an overdrawn picture, but the half is not yet told. A forest *does* cause rain to fall, or at least it does not, as does













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